

JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AT THE JCA CENTRE, 995 ARROW ROAD

MAY 26, 2001 AT 1:00 P.M.

2000
Minutes

A G E N D A

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF A.G.M. MAY 27, 2000
4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS
6. CORRESPONDENCE: See attached communication from
Ms. Judy Sgro, M.P. York West.
7. OFFICERS' REPORTS
 1. Executive Director- Elaine Thompson
 2. Treasurer - Maxine Adams
 3. Auditor - Donna A. Goldson
 4. Vice President - Valarie Steele
 5. President - Herman Stewart

=: I N T E R M I S S I O N :=

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Nominating Committee Chair
Vincent Conville
Positions up for election (1) Vice President (2) Treasurer
(3) Membership Services Committee Chairperson (4) Building
Committee Chairperson (5) Public Relations Committee
Chairperson - Terms for all positions Two (2) years.

Note: (During ballot counting, the Chairs of Standing & Ad Hoc
Committees will present brief highlights of their reports.)

9. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS
10. ADJOURNMENT.



Cocktails with Cabinet

a reception in honour
of Member of Parliament

Judy Sgro

You and your guests are invited to attend a reception in honour of Judy Sgro, Member of Parliament, York West. A number of Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament will be in attendance. You will be able to mingle with our special guests the entire evening.

This will be a very exciting event, with large presentations of food, drinks and beautiful background music. There will also be a silent auction of many great items.

Skip supper. There will be plenty of food and drinks.

Among our special guests are:

The Honourable David Collenette, Minister of Transportation,

The Honourable Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage,

The Honourable Arthur Eggleton, Minister of Defence,

The Honourable Allan Rock, Minister of Health,

The Honourable Jane Stewart, Minister of Human Resources Development,

The Honourable Don Boudria, Leader of The Government in the House of Commons,

The Honourable Maria Minna, Minister for International Cooperation.

And many more are expected to drop by during the evening.

We're looking forward to having you join us. Please fax us (416-249-3028) the attached order form to confirm your tickets, or call us at 416-762-4025.

Thursday, May 31, 2001, time 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm,
Montecassino Place at 3710 Chesswood Drive, Toronto

 **Liberal**

JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2000

AT THE JCA CENTRE, 995 ARROW ROAD

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The President called the meeting to order at the hour of 1:26 p.m. and welcomed all present. He stated that this is the second Annual General Meeting to be held in our community centre, and that the past year has been a very busy one for all concerned.

It was moved by Mr. Jos Thompson, seconded by Ms. Shelia Raymond, that a moment of Silence be observed in memory of members who had passed away during the past year:

CARRIED.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE WAS OBSERVED.

2. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MAY 27, 2000.**

Upon motion being duly moved, seconded and carried unanimously, the Minutes was taken as read:

Upon the question that the Minutes be adopted, it was moved by Ms. Monica Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Linda Gray, there being no errors nor omissions therein:

CARRIED.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS:**

The President extended a warm and friendly welcome to all new new members, visitors and guests, including Mr. Dudley Laws.

The President also recognized the presence of Mrs. Vie Carter and Ms. Amy Nelson, founding members of the association.

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5. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. A communication from Ms. Melanie-Anne Atkins to the JCA was read by the Executive Secretary Re: Entertainment at Mother's Day Brunch, Sunday, May 14, 2000.

It was moved and seconded: That the foregoing letter be received and recorded in the Minutes of this meeting, with thanks being expressed to Ms. Atkins for her generosity:

CARRIED.

"Thank you very much for your generous gift of \$100.00 for playing the piano at your highly successful brunch. I had lots of fun, and more importantly, I became aware of the need for ongoing funds for our new centre. The impassioned speeches affected me personally, and I think that the only thing that I could possibly do with this money would be to give it right back to you.

Therefore, please accept this gift of \$100.00 because I feel that such a needed institution deserves everyone's support."

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OFFICERS' REPORTS:

6. Executive Director - Elaine Thompson:

Transition was the key word for the JCA during 1999-2000, especially for the social side, due to:

- **the renovations to the community centre** - which caused a temporary disruption in our services.
- **the growing crisis in our community around parent-child issues:** more families are requesting JCA support in cases involving Children's Aid and courts.
- **changing priorities from funders**, in particular Citizenship and Immigration Canada, which is shifting resources to services for immigrants who have been in Canada for less than a year.
- **technology:** e-mail and the internet are becoming key communication methods for social services.

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The high publicity from the completion of the centre during last fiscal year has raised expectations of higher standard of service delivery on all fronts. Accordingly, last year saw a renewed focus in strengthening internal procedures and policies, for greater efficiency and accountability in our social services

1999-2000 GENERAL SOCIAL SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Computerization:** Citizenship and Immigration Canada spearheaded the development of a computer network at the JCA, linking the Executive Director and three settlement staff with other settlement agencies across Ontario. One computer has been set aside for clients' use. The new Opportunity Plus+ program staff was able to join the network, as was the Violence Against Women counsellor. VAW's computerization, paid for by the funder, was to meet new requirements for program evaluation established by the government of Ontario. The goal for next fiscal is computers for the CYFS staff and for reception, to help with the hall bookings.
2. **Web site:** The newest version of Jassoc.com went on-line in early March 2000. Within its first three days, it received more than 1,500 hits, despite being yet unregistered with search engines. The new design has received overwhelming positive feedback. The JCA has also broken tradition registering the site as dot com, instead of dot-org to underline the site's potential for being what funders call a "productive enterprise".
3. **Video:** With funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the JCA produced the video, **Freshies: The Experience of Caribbean Newcomer Youth**. In their own words, youth spoke of their expectation of being reunited with parents and their fantasies of life in Canada, and of the hard realities they encountered on arrival. The educational system and interaction with the police were also key themes. The video has been distributed to settlement agencies, schools, police and other intermediate agencies that deal with Caribbean newcomer youth.
4. **Participation in United Way Campaign.** JCA staff earned special commendation for its fundraising campaign on behalf of the United Way, and were nominated for a Spirit of the Campaign award. Congratulations to the campaign team: Rudy Sanchez, Carlean Morgan,, Francelia Vassell and Joe Boateng.

5. **Seniors:** Funding from Heart Health, the International Year of Older Persons and the Canadian Women's Foundation enabled the JCA to design and deliver information sessions for the Caribbean Canadian Seniors' Club during fiscal 1999-2000.

6. **Research partnerships:** In January 2000, the JCA signed on as a community partner in grant applications for two projects: 1) York University for a proposed study of immigration practices and policies as they affect Caribbean youth; and 2) University of Toronto for a study of the effect of criminal deportations from Canada on Jamaican society. If the grants are approved, the JCA would help with providing community forums to help gather data on the issues.

7. **Literacy Report:** With funding from the National Literacy Foundation, the JCA, in partnership with Dr. Evans Enyolu, completed a report on the state of literacy among African Canadian youth. Due to the limited funding, the study was unable to explore the socio-economic factors behind what has been revealed as a high level of illiteracy among the youth. The report, written at a technical level, was printed in February 2000.

8. **Staff changes:** During the fiscal year, the following staff left JCA:

Billroy Powell, settlement counsellor; **Haari Abou Korrat**, executive director; **Stephnie Payne**, settlement counsellor; **Lisa Chin Quee**, community worker, and **Rudy Sanchez**, youth settlement worker.

New staff hired during the fiscal year were: **Joe Boateng**, settlement counsellor; **Francelia Vassell**, assistant coordinator for the Leaders in Partnership Program; **Audrey Taylor**, coordinator for the job preparation program for older workers; and **Elaine Thompson**, executive director.

9. **Volunteers:** The JCA's success has been with the help of committee volunteers. However, many are unaware of the more than 50 individuals who have helped to make our social service work during the fiscal year. They have helped with reception and other administrative duties; worked with the LIP program in the area's elementary schools; provided child care during JCA's parenting and abused women support group session; tutored children on Saturday mornings; and, as placement students, accompanied clients to court and helped them prepare forms. The JCA thanks each and every one of our social service volunteers for their contribution.

1999-2000 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Caribbean Youth and Family Services (CYFS):** Family crisis related to reunification of newcomer children, and due to the intervention of child protection agencies were key issues faced by CYFS staff. As well, the program is facing new pressures from its funder, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, to meet the high demands of a new protocol "Making Services Work for People" that was put in place early in the year 2000. This requires agencies such as the JCA to serve or refer child clients within 24 hours of receiving them. Other key government policy affecting CYFS staff include Bill 6, which removes much of the discretion from agencies and individuals such as priests and teachers about reporting suspected child abuse.

CYFS staff also operated a peer group for adolescent girls at Brookview Middle School, visited prison inmates and ran a four-week summer camp in 1999.

2. **Violence Against Women Program:** The involvement in Community Kitchen program the previous fiscal resulted in an increase in the number of women seeking counselling and support from JCA's Violence Against Women Program. During the year, the program also undertook a partnership with the John Howard Society to maintain contact with abused women whose abusers were undergoing an anger management program (Choices).

3. **Leader In Partnership (LIP):** Funded by the Ministry of the Solicitor General; this social development program for troubled elementary school children picked up speed during the 1999-2000 fiscal year. About 30 children aged 7 - 9 who were in danger of suspension from school because of problem behaviour underwent an eight-week course facilitated by JCA staff with help from volunteer officers from 31 Division Toronto Police. Response has been positive from the students, officers, parents and principals. The Richard Ivey Foundation recognized the value of the program with a financial contribution in December 1999.

4. **Parenting Program:** During 1999-2000, the program focussed on joint counselling for parents and children, and on a 12-week child-rearing program, conducted at a Toronto Housing Company building. Clients for the course were mothers (and some fathers) referred by the courts or by Children's Aid for issues related to child discipline.

5. Additional funding was requested from United Way to make the parenting counsellor an in-house full-time position.
6. **Newcomer Settlement Program:** The change in counsellors affected the delivery of services by this program (funded by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation). Nevertheless, counsellors were able to highlight affordable housing as one of the key issues of need for newcomers.
7. **Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program (ISAP):** Funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the ISAP program reflected the shifting priorities of its funders during the fiscal year. In addition to regular counselling services, the ISAP counsellor was involved in helping to define the mandate for a new and potential competitor, Settlement, and Education Partnerships in Toronto. This school based settlement program, a pilot started in the summer of 1999 and funded by CIC, aims to identify and provide settlement services to adults through their children.
8. **Caribbean Youth Partnerships:** This partnership with Tropicana to assess the situation of newcomer youth from the Caribbean ended in December 1999. Two reports were issued. Initial findings from this research were instrumental in Citizenship and Immigration Canada's decision to approve funding by the JCA to produce **freshies**, the video on newcomer youth.
9. **Opportunity Plus+:** (formerly Job Assistance for Experienced Workers): This new program, funded by Human Resources Development Canada, opened office in the fall of 1999. The program provides quick and personal help to unemployed clients who are 45 years or more, in the areas of preparing resumes, interview skills, and searching the job market via the Internet. Clients come from a range of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Many non-Caribbean clients report feeling a sense of ease and familiarity accessing services from the JCA instead of traditional mainstream job offices.

It was moved by Ms. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Sheila Raymond, that the foregoing report be adopted:

CARRIED.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's report is attached to these Minutes, as Appendix "A".

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Ms. Adams, seconded by Ms. Fay Conville, moved that the appended Financial Statements be adopted:

CARRIED.

8. AUDITOR'S REPORT:

The Auditor's report is attached to these Minutes, as Appendix "B"

Mr. Jos Thompson, seconded by Mr. David Sinclair, moved adoption of the Auditor's report.

CARRIED.

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is a pleasure and honour for me to present my fourth annual report. It is with pride and joy that I write this report because during the past year our long cherished dream became a reality with the grand opening of our community centre. Our dream became a reality because of the dedication and commitment of our members, our staff, our friends and our community.

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I salute you all. Sincere thanks to our various funders, to our volunteers and to the thousands who have supported our various fundraising activities.

Fundraising:

We are very pleased to report that we again had a very successful year of fundraising. On the corporate side we got large financial contributions from Motorola Canada, Western Union, U.A.I.A. and Patty Palace.

During the course of the year we sponsored fundraising events such as dances and brunches. They were all successful, for example, the Merritone Dance and the "Boonoonoonos" Brunch alone raised \$30,000, all of which went directly to pay down the bank loan.

Over the summer we are putting all our energies into a fundraising golf tournament and our third annual car raffle. Our goal is to raise \$200,000 from these two events. Our "Buy-A-Brick" campaign netted \$65,000. The campaign ended in December 1999.. Since then I have had requests

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from a number of members who would like to see the campaign restarted. Your input and recommendation on this matter will be helpful.

All the donors recognition boards are now completed and are on display.

Community Outreach & Partnerships:

We firmly believe in the old adage "Unity is Strength". The changes that are needed will only occur when our community speaks with a united voice and to that end we maintained a high visibility within our community throughout the year.

We joined forces with the African Canadian Legal Clinic to challenge various aspects of the Immigration Act which we believe discriminates against black women. Other groups that we worked in partnership with during the year includes Tropicana Community Services, the Urban Alliance, N.A.C., BADC, and the Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations.

In August we hosted a reception for the heads of Caribbean organizations as well as the entire Caribbean Diplomatic Corps. The purpose was to strengthen the relationship between the various groups, while at the same time showcasing our community centre. Based on feedback, this event was a huge success. Also in August, we teamed up with radio station CHRY to host a "Community Open House Day". This event drew thousands of people to our community centre.

One of the first major functions that took place in the new centre was a Canadian Citizenship Court Ceremony which was presided over by our own Judge Stanley Grizzle. It is our intention to host one such event every year.

Distress Fund:

We at the JCA always believe in lending a hand to those in society who are less fortunate. We also believe that when disaster strikes we should lend a helping hand, and to that end we have established the distress fund. We had our first annual fundraising dance in early March which raised \$2,000, which we will use to start up the fund. Ongoing donations are welcome in order to sustain same.

Advocacy:

During the course of the year we spoke out many times on various issues of importance to our community. On the issue of the hiring of the new police chief we organized a community meeting to discuss our concerns.

In March, the Vice-President and I met with the new Police Chief. We highlighted for him our community's concerns regarding policing. We organized a very successful town hall meeting on May. We got good media coverage of this event and was able to articulate our concerns through several interviews both with the print and electronic media.

We met with most of the members of parliament from the GTA as well as the Ontario Minister of Citizenship and the Mayor of Toronto. At these meetings we highlighted our concerns and needs for good support for community centres.

In July we strongly condemned the Immigration Department for sending officers on to incoming flights from the Caribbean to look for so-called "troublemakers" and followed up with a number of meetings with senior immigration officials. As a result of our meetings a community town hall meeting was agreed upon to take place in February. Bad weather caused a postponement of this event until May 27th.

In April when the news media reported that the Immigration Department had secretly implemented a policy of setting quotas based on country for new immigrants, we appeared on several radio programs to speak out against such a policy. Throughout the year we received many requests to help members of our community with problems ranging from Immigration, human rights, policing, the schools, to employment. In many cases our intervention led to successful resolutions.

Administration:

Our former Executive Director left at the end of December and we were fortunate to find someone who is highly qualified and committed. Elaine Thompson, in less than six months on the job, has done a tremendous job in securing increased funding for our programs. Her presence has brought stability to the program delivery aspect of our operations.

She has opened up the lines of communication between staff and board

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which will lead to better understanding and appreciation of the roles and responsibilities of each.

Board of Directors:

I am very happy to report that the team you elected last year has done a tremendous job. Their commitment and hard work is evident in the fact of our increased membership and our high visibility inside and outside of our community. At our Annual General Meeting last year, three new faces joined our team, and I am pleased to report that all three, the Vice-President, the Treasurer and the Public Relations Officer have done a tremendous job. They are committed, dedicated individuals who have fitted in well with the rest of the team. To Vincent Conville, Francella Moore, Pat Williams and Ansel Bather - thank you for a job well done. Your presence on the board will be missed. I wish you all the best and I am confident that you will continue to work with us to make the JCA and our community stronger.

To my colleagues seeking re-election to the board - Good Luck! To those not up for re-election, I look forward to working with you over the next year if I am given the privilege to serve another term.

Future Plans:

If elected my goals for the next two years are:-

1. To retire the bank loan
2. To re-establish a JCA Credit Union
3. To organize a Youth Forum to address the issue of "Black on Black" violence.

Summary:

Finally, although we had an extremely busy year the intent of this report is only to highlight some of the main activities.

As I reflect on the past year my heart is filled with pride and joy and it is with full confidence that I can proudly state that our association is strong, vibrant and well respected within the community.

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